

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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of minor importance, the Senate took up the consideration of the Governor's annual message, which elicited a lengthy discussion. In the Assembly the bill providing for the punishment of murder, treason and arson was up, and was discussed at some length, in connection with a proposition to amend by making the punishment for murder in the first degree imprisonment for life instead of death. The Annual Appropriation bill was under consideration, and the bill in reference to the support of the common schools of the State was passed to a third reading.

The steamship North Star, from Aspinwall 4th inst., arrived at this port yesterday, with the California mails, passengers, and \$1,041,000 in treasure, which left San Francisco on the 21st ult.

The steamship De Soto, from New Orleans, and Havana 8th inst., arrived at this port about one o'clock this morning. The United States steamship Crusader, Capt. Maffit, touched at Havana on the 8th inst., and sailed same day for New York. The news is unimportant.

We have news from Hayti to January 22. Considerable anxiety was caused by Spanish policy and probable intentions in regard to the island of St. Domingo. It was said that some old claims were preferred by the Spanish government which would interfere materially with Haytian independence, and if time could be spared from affairs at home it might be well to watch affairs in that island. Coffee was still in demand, and commands high prices—from \$132 to \$134 per hundred lbs.

The steamship City of Baltimore, due at this port from Liverpool, had not made her appearance off Sandy Hook at eleven o'clock last night.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors yesterday two vetoes were received from the Mayor—one on the passage of the county tax levy, and the other on a resolution adopted by the Board at a previous meeting directing the clerk to send to the members of the Legislature copies of the report of the special committee on Harlem bridge. They are printed elsewhere. The weekly statement of the County Treasurer was received, which showed the balance in the treasury on the 9th of February to have been \$355,378.80. A statement of the number of persons employed in the office of the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments was received. The number employed is twenty-six, and their salaries amount to \$47,228. A resolution to the effect that a committee of four be appointed to wait upon the President elect upon his arrival in this city, to tender him the civilities of the citizens of the county, was unanimously adopted. Several communications were received, and a large amount of routine business was transacted; after which the Board adjourned until next Tuesday at 3 P. M.

The case of the late Post Office defalcation was continued yesterday in the United States District Court. The District Attorney presented several supplementary points, and Mr. Charles O'Connor concluded his plea for the obligors, when the court adjourned.

The charge of murder against Lane, the mate of the bark Anne, was continued in the United States Circuit Court before Judge Smalley yesterday, and further adjourned.

The wills of Elizabeth Lacombe, Elizabeth E. Roton, Thomas T. Banta, George Compton and Benjamin Ellis have all been admitted to probate. None of them contain any bequests of interest to the public.

Sterling exchange closed heavy and nominal yesterday at about 106 for bankers', and at 105 1/2 for commercial bills. This condition of the exchange market tended to check purchases of produce for export and to depress prices. The scarcity of room and firmness in freight also checked the demand for breadstuffs and other produce for shipment. The sales of cotton embraced about 1,000 bales, closing on the basis of 11 1/2c for middling uplands. The receipts at the ports since 1st September show a decrease of 623,000 bales compared with those for the same time last year; the decrease in the exports for the same period amounts to 230,000 bales, and the decrease in stock amounts to 330,000 bales. Flour was dull and rather lower for common grades, while sales were moderate. Wheat was heavy and lower, while sales were light. Corn was heavy and lower, with light demand, and mainly for export. Pork was in limited demand, and prices closed at earlier rates; sales of new hams were made at \$17 1/2c, and of prime at \$13. Sugars were inactive and prices dull; the sales were confined to 64 hogsheads and 209 boxes. Coffee closed with steadiness, with sales of 1,600 bags of Rio, 338 do. Maracabo and 100 mats Java, at rates given in another column. Freight was firm, room was scarce, while engagements were light.

The Authoritative Coercion Programme of Mr. Lincoln and His Administration—Civil War Upon Us.

The bells of St. Germain d'Auxerrois have at length tolled forth the signal for massacre and bloodshed by the incoming administration. The speech of Mr. Lincoln, at Indianapolis, is the first authoritative proclamation of his intentions in the present crisis. His words are pregnant with meaning, and deserve the mature and deliberate consideration of every conservative citizen of the country. "If the United States," he exclaimed, "should merely hold and retake its own forts and the properties, and collect the duties on foreign importations, or even withhold the mails from places where they are habitually violated, would any of these things be invasion or coercion? Would the marching of an army into South Carolina be invasion?" The Premier of Mr. Lincoln had already declared to the United States Senate that "battle," which should sweep away opponents to republicanism "as moths before the whirlwind," was his idea of the final development of the "irrepressible conflict." And, by a well calculated coincidence, on the same day, perhaps at the same moment that Mr. Lincoln was indomitably inciting the citizens of Indiana into invasive and coercive principles, Senators King and Fessenden were announcing, at Washington, their reasons for reinforcing the navy of the United States with vessels which should be able to penetrate Southern harbors, and attack Southern fortresses.

"Treason," says Mr. King, "is abroad in this land, and I believe there is an occasion and a necessity of the increase of the armament and the power of the country. But for the condition of things in the country now, I would vote against it, but I vote for it as a measure to put the country in a condition to defend itself against its enemies, whether they are domestic or foreign enemies. This government and this country cannot be peaceably destroyed, or overthrown or divided. Men cannot talk treason—they must act it; and he who acts it, in my judgment, should take the fate of a traitor, and should not seek to escape by pretending that he can commit it peacefully against the country. I tell these gentlemen that, in my judgment, this treason must come to an end, peacefully I hope, but never, in my judgment, peacefully, if by an ignominious submission of the honor of the people of this country to traitors. Never. I desire peace, but I would provide, amply provide, for the means of defence of the country, by war, if necessary."

Senator Fessenden was equally positive in declaring "that if the time was coming to use force, he was perfectly ready to do it." Where, then, does the country stand? Governor Morgan offers the militia of New York to Mr. Lincoln, and a large sum of money is appropriated by the State Legislature for coercive purposes; the authorities of Massachusetts mobilize their

forces to act outside of the State; Pennsylvania avenue is turned into a *Champs de Mars*; Generals like Wool, Sandford, Scott and Weightman are sharpening their swords for bloodshed; members of the Cabinet issue instructions to "shoot on the spot" active seceders, and every preparation is being made for the inauguration of sectional hostilities after the 4th of March next. It is declared that the Southern seceding States must prepare for a blockade of their ports; to surrender the fortresses they have seized upon, and to fall back into the passive submission which republican aggression has demanded for over thirty years. In the present deplorable condition of the country, is this the right policy? Is it expedient? The Southern Congress at Montgomery offer the hand of friendship to the North, on such terms as they believe to be consistent with its dignity. They have provided, in the sixth article of the constitution of the Southern republic, that its government "shall take immediate steps for the settlement of all matters between the States forming it and their late confederates of the United States in relation to the public property and public debt at the time of their withdrawal from them, these States hereby declaring it to be their wish and earnest desire to adjust everything pertaining to the common property, common liabilities and common obligations of that Union upon principles of right, justice, equity and good faith." To all this the republican party answer, "Submit to the abstractions of the Chicago platform, or there shall be no alternative but war—a bloody, internecine, destructive conflict, which shall bury in the prosperity of the country."

Sober minded, patriotic citizens at the North, have no time to lose, if they would avert irreparable disaster. Meetings should at once be held in every city, town and village of the Union, proclaiming, first of all, as an indispensable, irrevocable preliminary, the resolve of the people to maintain peace, and, next their desire to aid in the work of reconstruction, which the exigencies of the time imperatively demand. The declarations of Mr. Lincoln, of his Premier, and of the republican Senators and members in Congress, have rendered clearer than noonday the suicidal intentions of the incoming government. They are founded upon the gigantic scheme of General Scott for the subjugation of the South, which was exposed by the Congressional representatives of Louisiana, in their address of the 14th ultimo, to the Convention at Baton Rouge, and which includes the garrisoning of Southern forts and arsenals, the marching of forces into the seceding States, with a view of employing them for domestic intimidation.

The republican party is only awaiting, in fact, the close of the present administration to clothe itself with the panoply of war, and to initiate acts of aggression, which it fills the mind with horror to contemplate. Imagination cannot conceive the disasters that will overwhelm the land, if an appeal is permitted to cannon and the bayonet to solve the inter-State problem which the developments of the last few months have created. The only remedy is with the people. Unless they rise in their might, and put an end to the agitations by which the republic is convulsed, the calamities foreshadowed in Mr. Lincoln's speech at Indianapolis will, before the close of one month begin to be felt from one end of the Union to the other.

THE EVILS OF INTERSECTION IN TIMES OF POLITICAL DANGER.—The correspondence between Secretary Holt and Col. Hayne, in reference to the surrender of Fort Sumter, adds another to the many historical evidences of the fatal influence which men of mediocre talents or feeble minds are destined to exercise in times of great political emergency. In the views and arguments urged in it we recognise nothing which raises it above the level of the efforts of small pettifogging politicians. It is weak, it is flippant, and takes no comprehensive or statesmanlike grasp of the difficulties in which the country is involved.

There were but two courses for the general government to pursue under the circumstances in which the action of South Carolina placed it. The one was when that State sent commissioners to dictate terms to it to adopt the bold and decisive course of having them arrested for treason. This would have brought matters to a crisis, and might have secured an immediate adjustment, by proving to the republicans the extent to which the movement was sympathized in and sustained by the other Southern States. At all events we should not have had the latter so soon committed to a position from which, whatever may be the concessions made to them, it will be difficult for them to recede.

The other and more statesmanlike course was at once to acknowledge the true character of the movement, and to deal with it accordingly. From the extent to which the Southern mind was agitated and public sentiment at the North divided on the great question involved in the last Presidential contest, no man of ordinary sagacity could have mistaken the fact that the secession of South Carolina was not an isolated act of rebellion, but the commencement of a great revolution like that of 1776. If the administration had been composed of statesmen, instead of small politicians, it would have entertained the grievances of South Carolina—not as those of a single State, but of the whole South—investigated their justice, and enforced them in so earnest a manner before Congress and the country as to insure a speedy arrangement of them. These opportunities were lost; and to the weakness and vacillation of the President and his Cabinet we must, therefore, attribute a large share of the responsibility of the catastrophe towards which the country is hastening.

LINCOLN ON MEDICAL SCIENCE.—In the course of his very remarkable speech at Springfield, the President elect made an allusion to the "little pills of the homoeopaths" as being too large for the opponents of coercion to swallow. The comparison is more after the manner of Hon. Mass. Greeley than that of the ancient rail splitter, but still may be of use with another application. If the incoming administration pursues the homoeopathic plan in its dealings with the cotton States, giving all patile doses of kindness, concession and conciliation, and administering infinitesimal doses of coercion, the national troubles may be settled, and the Union, which is really very sick, be restored to better health than ever. Otherwise, with allopathic coercion and homoeopathic compromise, Doctor Lincoln may as well get ready for a funeral. He will have the poor consolation of not being the only political quack who has killed his patient through combined stupidity and ignorance.

THE GREAT ROBBERY AT WASHINGTON.—FLOYD FLATTERED.—Read the astounding facts, figures and testimony submitted to Congress, in the report which we publish to-day of the House Committee of Investigation, touching the late stupendous frauds upon the public Treasury, in the abstractions, &c., of the Indian Trust bonds from the Interior Department. In the evidence thus submitted, the fact which over shadows all other facts is, that the government robber, who stands at the head of the forty thieves, is John B. Floyd, the late Secretary of War. Floyd stands charged as having issued "acceptances unauthorized by law, and fraudulent and deceptive in their character," to the extent of untold millions. Called to an account by Senator Benjamin, in the progress of this corrupt business, this immaculate Floyd, pretending repentance, promised to sin in this way no more; and yet it appears that within a few months after this promise of reformation he had issued over two millions more of these fraudulent and deceptive acceptances. The committee show him up as about the most incompetent, imbecile, negligent, reckless, unscrupulous, corrupt and shameless public agent that has ever occupied any position of responsibility under the government of the United States.

This is the chivalric Floyd who resigned his seat in the Cabinet because his honor was pledged not to send any reinforcements to Fort Sumter, and because Mr. Buchanan refused to stand by this pledge of a disunion conspirator. Indicted as a robber of the Treasury, let us hope that justice will be done to this immaculate Floyd. The report of the House Committee, so far as he is concerned, is positively astounding, and flattens out Floyd. It appears, however, that, by some sort of hocus-pocus or legerdemain, he humbugged Mr. Buchanan to such an extent that the President, in the midst of these embezzlements, referred an inquiring Senator to Floyd as to a model of official integrity. In other respects this report will be found an instructive document, and especially to party swindlers and defrauders, and such like small deer, whose operations do not exceed a few hundred thousands. The theme is so suggestive of matter for reflection, touching this crisis of official corruption, demoralization and revolution, that we shall recur to it again. Meanwhile, this House report is sufficiently interesting to challenge a careful examination by our readers of all sections, and classes, and parties.

THE MILITIA BILL IN THE LEGISLATURE.—The attempt to pass an appropriation bill of half a million dollars in the Albany Legislature, for the purpose of arming and equipping the militia of the State, suggests some very curious inquiries as to the real condition of our organized State forces. It appears that the bill, which is a republican measure, is based upon the report of the republican Commissary General, to the effect that the militia is in a miserable condition, and greatly in need of arms, while it happens, strangely enough, that the Commissary General just two years ago reported that body to be in excellent order, with no want of arms to complain of. The questions naturally arise: whence the falling off, and what has become of the arms? The First division, comprising a force of seven thousand men, certainly has not retrograded either in discipline or in numbers, for it has rarely turned out so strong, or acquitted itself so creditably, as on the reception of the Prince of Wales last September. Where, then, is the falling off, unless it be in the rural districts, where the military esprit was never much to boast of? It is evident that this bill has been introduced by the republicans to enable them to get up some kind of a military force, and to handle the spoils, in order to fulfil the foolish and precipitate pledge they made to furnish men and money to the government for purposes of coercion.

SOUTHERN BORDER STATE CONVENTIONS.—The States of Arkansas and North Carolina will hold elections during the present month to decide whether or not they shall call conventions to consider the present political crisis with reference to their own self-protection. The Legislatures of those States have enacted laws applicable to this subject, and for which they cannot be accused of precipitancy or for the exhibition of a desire to not allow their constituents a full voice in the matter; for they leave the choice to the people, as in Tennessee, to vote "convention or no convention," and at the same time for delegates thereto, should the proposition for a convention receive a majority of the votes cast. The wisdom of these laws indicates a strong desire to remain in and obtain their rights in the Union; but it must not be inferred, as it was erroneously supposed in the late election in Virginia, that the majority of the delegates to the convention in that State are for remaining in the Union under all circumstances. If the Northern States do not give the border States full and sufficient guarantees for the future, the latter will follow the seceded States, and obtain their rights out of the Union.

ASH WEDNESDAY.—The season of Lent, as observed by the Catholics and Episcopalians, commences to-day, and appropriate services will be held, as usual, in the churches. The fashionable world is supposed, during the next forty days, to be clothed in sackcloth and ashes. Parties are generally interdicted, receptions are tabooed and balls prohibited. The Opera and the theatres will profit, however, by this social interregnum. The profane and irreverent majority will still run after the "Ballo in Maschera" and Booth, while the pious minority are telling their beads and doing penance for their sins. If the politicians, who have brought the country to its present pass, would observe Lent rigorously, and leave the settlement of the question to the people, things might be all settled before Easter. That, however, is scarcely to be expected; while there is a dollar in the federal treasury they will never release their hold on it.

THE TENNESSEE ELECTION.—There is some danger that the republican party may place too much confidence in the results of the late Tennessee election. We are advised from Washington that this election is suffering the backbone of the party—that it concerns the Union secure under "Honest Abe Lincoln," with the retention of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri under our federal government. But let it not be forgotten that most of these States are pledged to sustain the seceded States against the policy of coercion. The original plan of the Southern confederacy comprehended only the cotton States; the tobacco States were to stand as a

barrier of protection to the cotton confederacy; and so they will, if required. Let not this be forgotten by the republicans, if they would retain the border slave States in our Union.

FREE LOVE AND PASSIONAL ATTRACTION IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.—It has been generally supposed that Thurlow Weed had the inside track with old Abe; but the speech of the new President at Indianapolis refers in express terms to Greeley's favorite theories—free love and passional attraction. It is quite true that Lincoln uses these terms in a figurative manner, but it must also be recollected that Hon. Mass. Greeley himself has latterly deserted his old friends, and declared that he never endorsed their peculiar theories. So, after all, Lincoln and Greeley are in the same boat, driving up Salt River with Garrison, Phillips & Co. Old Abe is precisely in the position of a young bear, with his troubles all before him, and a few weeks experience at Washington will